

Social Service Human Relations Board

REVISED -Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 22, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL: President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Members Nielsen, Villareal, Soglin, and **Biggs**. Member James was late. Staff present was Wright.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the special meeting on December 3, 2008 were approved by M/S Villareal, Soglin and unanimous.

3-A. INFORMATION ON PLAN FOR CDBG EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Staff member Wright reviewed the transfer plan of the emergency rental assistance program from the Alameda Service Center-Red Cross to Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity (ECHO) Housing.

Speaker – Jim Franz, Alameda American Red Cross (ARC) provided the Board a review of efforts in preparing for his retirement which included transfer of food services to Alameda Food Bank, transfer of information and referrals to 2-1-1. Mr. Franz commented on the natural transfer of rental assistance to ECHO as ARC has been working with ECHO for the past seven years. He provided a brief description of the program design via lottery and CBO referrals.

Speaker – Margie Rocha, ECHO Fair Housing introduced herself and described the ease of which working with Franz and the City has been seamless.

3-B. PRESENTATION AND REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE WITH ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (AUSD) “CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITY” FORUM: Debbie Wong, AUSD introduced herself and provided a presentation to the Board titled, “Ensuring Safe Schools in the Alameda Unified School District.” She invited the Board to community forums on February 4 and 5. Tied in how community building activities really allows for an ‘it takes a village’ approach. The schools, families, community and the city can all have a part in supporting this effort. Ms. Wong provided an overview of both the elementary and secondary school effort, including revitalizing the Gay-Straight Alliance at the high schools. The timeline for completion is January 2009-January 2010. The Committee consists of AUSD staff, parents, teachers, and some in the core community.

Speaker – Sean Cahill, AUSD reported there is a commitment to this effort but it is difficult to effectively execute due to many constraints and is asking for people to stand together to support this social curriculum. The support from the community, and perhaps the City by Proclamation, then by adoption. It takes a fabric of the community to offer the collective support, by speaking at school forums, and assemblies. He asked the Board to help think of ways to support this.

President Wasko stated that it is important to note that this issue is consistent with the principles upon which ATAH was founded.

Motion for Board to support the Forums taking place on February 4 & 5. M/S James, Villareal Unanimous

Motion for Board to send a letter supporting the effort to AUSD, and also send a letter to local community-based organizations to encourage them to participate in the Forums, and authorize ATAH to continue to identify further areas of support. M/S Biggs, Nielsen, Motion carried. with James opposed.

Having the letter read to the School Board at their meeting on February 24th was mentioned during the discussion, but was not included in the final language of the motion that was voted on.

Member James explained that while he supported the concept of the curriculum, and was in favor of the board supporting the Forums, he could not vote in favor of the 2nd motion because he had not read the curriculum.

3-C. WORKGROUP STATUS REPORTS:

Alamedans Together Against Hate – Member Villareal on the meetings they have attended on the Caring School curriculum for LGBT effort and both he and member Soglin expressed support for this effort being undertaken by AUSD.

Assessment and Awareness – Member Nielsen reported on the dental clinic at College of Alameda. AAWG are drafting a MOU between COA, AHS and the City. She described current operating hours and is looking to communicate with CBO's about access needs. Letter of support for grant was sent. Health is Not Just Healthcare is on hold but working to finalize data collected, and the planning staff attended a meeting in SF.

Family Services Workgroup – President Wasko reported this workgroup will have something to report after the Youth Collaborative Retreat. The workgroup is participating in developing the agenda. There is a possibility of resurrecting the Festival of Families with COA.

Sister City Workgroup – President Wasko reported the non-profit is moving forward, and this group is not participating in the Lunar New Year fair.

3-D. DISCUSSION ON HOW THE BOARD CAN FACILITATE FURTHER COLLABORATION AMONGST ALAMEDA SERVICES PROVIDERS: President Wasko outlined how changes in the SSHRB and ACCYF are affording an opportunity for us to increase collaboration. The Safe Schools grant is \$1.5 million, and asked are others interested in seeking a greater role in identifying collaboration for funds.

The Board expressed concerns and interest with how to share gather and share information, our role is to promote discussion amongst service providers and grant applications can be complex, the collaboration around common goals and themes, and what the next steps should be. Staff mentioned GIS and planning are being looked at. No motion this is an information item.

4. BOARD / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: There will be an Alameda Services Collaborative meeting on Wed., February 4th, same place, same time, and please RSVP to Franz for lunch.

President Wasko asked were are we with Board applications and interviews.

James – Coffee with the Chief of Police on Thursday, he appreciated the openness for dissent on previous item. Explained concern that wasn't sure curriculum was culturally sensitive.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Jim Franz stated he happy to be working with the City and this opportunity seems a perfect match with SSHRB and ACCYF.

6. ADJOURNMENT: Member Nielsen adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Terri Wright

Acting Secretary, Social Services Human Relations Board

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